

# DAVID B. HANCHETT

## VETERAN ACTOR DEAD

AT ONE TIME FOR TWO YEARS  
TERRE HAUTE WAS HIS

HOME. 1902  
HE PLAYED MANY PARTS

Fanny B. Price Was His Step-  
daughter and he Managed  
the Company.

David B. Hanchett, an old-time actor, well known here in Terre Haute, died Friday, April 26, at his home in Brooklyn, N. Y. He was over 70 years of age at the time of his death.

Venerable actor that he was, in his time he played many parts. Years ago, at the beginning of his career, he was a member of stock companies in many of the leading cities. In that day he supported such stars of first magnitude as the Booths, father and son, Edwin Forrest, Charlotte Cushman and a host of others. Probably no actor on the American stage, unless it be Couldock, played so many parts. For in that day the stock company was at the local theatre and the stars traveled. Thus the stock company would appear, week after week, the winter through in the full repertoire of a score of stars. A hundred different plays in a season was not an unusual thing. Memorizing the parts meant prodigious work.

After serving a long apprenticeship as a stock actor, Mr. Hanchett organized a company of his own. His step daughter, Fanny B. Price was his star. His own daughter, Julia Hanchett, was also a member of the company. For a time, too, his wife, but she died early. Mr. Hanchett was manager and actor. In charge of this company he toured the country for a number of seasons. As far back as the sixties he played at the old Theatre Comique on north Fifth street, this city, made over into a theatre from the building erected for and used by the Episcopal Church for many years.

Later on he played at the Naylor Opera House in the seventies. At this time he made Terre Haute his home in the summer for several years. He bought a place on the Lafayette road north of the city and there he and his daughters lived for two summers. During this time he wrote or dramatized from books several plays, which he subsequently put on the stage. During these years he began his season with two weeks engagements at the Naylor Opera House. But that was not its name then.

Fanny B. Price was his star. And a very capable star she was. It was by a narrow margin she escaped being a great actress. What has become of her is not known. She disappeared from the knowledge of Terre Haute a number of years ago.

Julia Hanchett married and left the stage. Mr. Hanchett himself was a large man, with a deep, rich and sonorous voice and an expressive face. It was in him to have made a great actor. But he

was too versatile. Besides in a certain way he was careless in his work and his life was spent in the shoals and shallows. He never caught fortune at the flood. Yet he was always hopeful. Mulberry Sellers would have found him a congenial spirit. During his residence in Terre Haute he made many friends. Nor is it strange for he was a companionable man. Among his friends was James Paxton Voorhees then growing into manhood. One season young Mr. Voorhees, who became stage struck and played Hamlet here with an amateur company, as older residents remember, traveled with Mr. Hanchett as a member of his company.

Retiring from the stage for a season Mr. Hanchett conducted a dramatic school at Indianapolis. But Indianapolis was too small a town for an enterprise of that sort and he failed. Since then he has lived in the east and acted at intervals as occasion offered. For a time he was with Walker Whiteside playing Polonius. His last visit to Terre Haute was on the occasion of James P. Voorhees' appearance at the Grand as a reader. It was in his contemplation to tour the United States giving readings. Mr. Hanchett was selected by him as his manager. For that purpose he came here. Under his management Mr. Voorhees gave several readings. But the project was abandoned and Mr. Hanchett returned to the east. Now comes the news of his death. In his death the stage loses one of the last survivors of that old school of actors which numbered among its members some of the greatest names that adorn its history. After life's ~~strife~~ <sup>strife</sup> he sleeps well.

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*Red Skelton 1913-1997*



# Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance

by Red Skelton

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

- I* - - *Me*; an individual; a committee of one.
- Pledge* - - Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.
- Allegiance* - - My love and my devotion.
- To the Flag* - - Our standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.
- United* - - That means that we have all come together.
- States* - - Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.
- And to the Republic* - - Republic - - a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.
- For which it stands*
- One Nation* - - One Nation - - meaning, so blessed by God.
- Indivisible* - - Incapable of being divided.
- With Liberty* - - Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.
- And Justice* - - The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.
- For All* - - For All - - Which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

*I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Since *I* was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to The Pledge of Allegiance: Under God.

Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer, and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

Red Skelton



*Memorial Service For*  
*Richard Bernard Skelton*

*Sunday, September 21, 1997*

*2:00 p.m.*

*Comments from the Community of Vincennes, Indiana*

*Elder Edward L. Sebring of the First Presbyterian Church*

*William Hopper, former President Pro Tempore  
of the Vincennes City Council*

*Mayor Howard William Hatcher,  
Mayor of the City of Vincennes, Indiana*

*Open floor to anyone in the audience  
who has personal comments to make*

*Closing Prayer by Ron Barnes,  
Minister of the Franklin Heights Christian Church  
Vincennes, Indiana*

*From the town that you were born in,  
'Good Night, and May God Bless.'*

